Shortcomings in the Current Body of Marine Recreational Fisheries Economic Data

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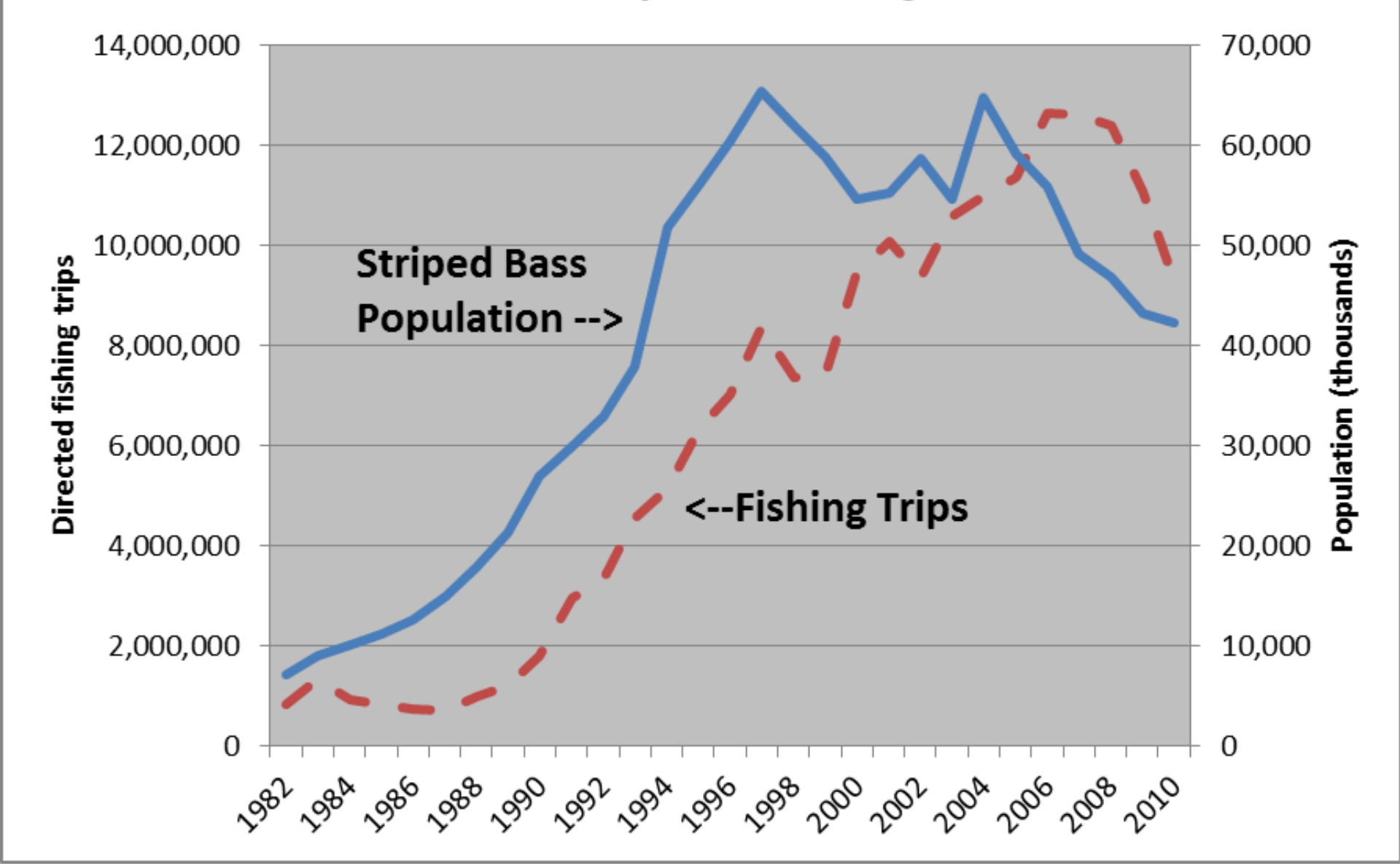
Introduction

- Past management issues have suffered from limited or missing economic data elements.
- Desired Goals:
  1. Discuss challenges to filling these information gaps
  2. Begin to prioritize information gaps
- Examples of recent and ongoing issues are next.

Recent Issue: California salmon / Water allocations

Key Information Gaps:

- Marginal changes in participation & spending resulting from changes in:
  - Fish stocks: we do not know the potential impacts from restoring stocks



Data Source: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Recent Issue: California salmon / Water allocations

Key Information Gaps:

- Marginal changes in participation & spending resulting from changes in:
  - Fish stocks: striped bass
  - Regulatory changes: reef fish, South Atlantic snapper
  - Access (California, Biscayne National Park)

In California, we heard (without statistical support):

"Anglers would simply shift 100% of effort & $$ elsewhere"

"Anglers will not shift to other recreations, will not reduce expenditures or take their dollars outside the economic area."

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

Key Information Gaps:

- Lack of local and fishery-specific economic information
- Lack of procedures for how to apply such information

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

Requirements within MSA:

- National Standard 8: "Conservation and management measures shall…take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by **utilizing economic and social data**… and to the extent practicable, **minimize adverse economic impacts** on such communities."
- Sec. 303. Contents of Fishery Management Plans:
  - "specify the pertinent data… including **economic information** necessary to meet the requirements of this Act
  - "assess, specify, and analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, **economic, and social impacts**, of the conservation and management measures on participants in the fishery"
  - "include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery, including its **economic impact**"

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

- Example: South Atlantic Red Snapper
  - In 2009, NMFS proposed 5,000 sq mi bottom-fishing closure
  - "cost and revenue data for even the most directly affected businesses, such as fish dealers and bait and tackle shops, is unavailable"[1]
  - ASA and Big Rock Sports commissioned a survey of Southeast tackle dealers:[2]
    - 1,300 stores selling bait and tackle will be directly affected
    - $78 million in sales would be lost in the first year of the ban
    - 578 jobs will be affected

[1]50 CFR Part 622

[2]Georgetown Economic Services. 2010. "An Economic Impact Study of the Effects of Closures in the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery on the Bait and Tackle Retail Industry"

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

- Example: South Atlantic 240-foot closure
  - In 2011, bottom fishing closure at depths 240+ ft was enacted
  - Limited biological data. Economic data non-existent
  - After hearing considerable testimony from businesses severely affected (one ASA member laid of 72% of its long time employees), the SAFMC removed the bottom fishing closure

Ongoing Issue: Allocations

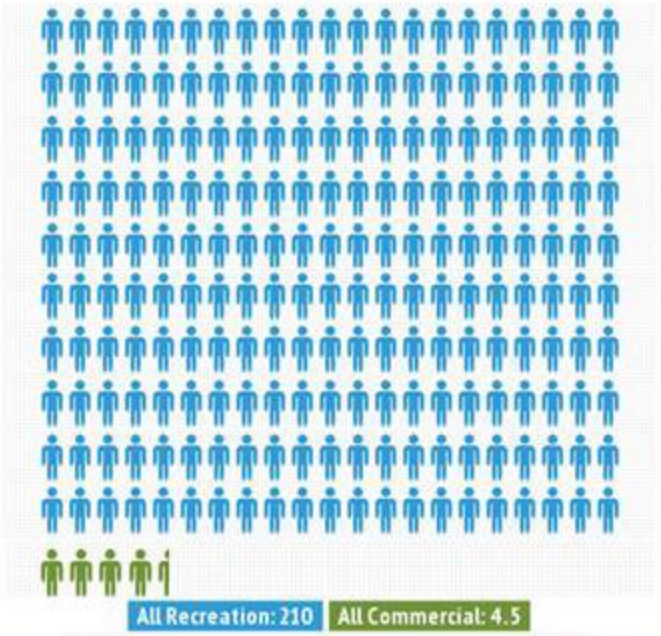
Key Information Gaps:

- The economic impacts/contributions from various recreational & commercial allocations

Outside data often shows a need for re-examination:

- Stripers: 17.3 greater impact at retail[1]
- Gulf red snapper: recreational sector has 16 times higher economic value[2]

Figure 4. Jobs per 100,000 pounds Landed in the United States, 2011



Data Source: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2011, NOAA Fisheries.

[1] Southwick Associates. 2005. "The Economics of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing"

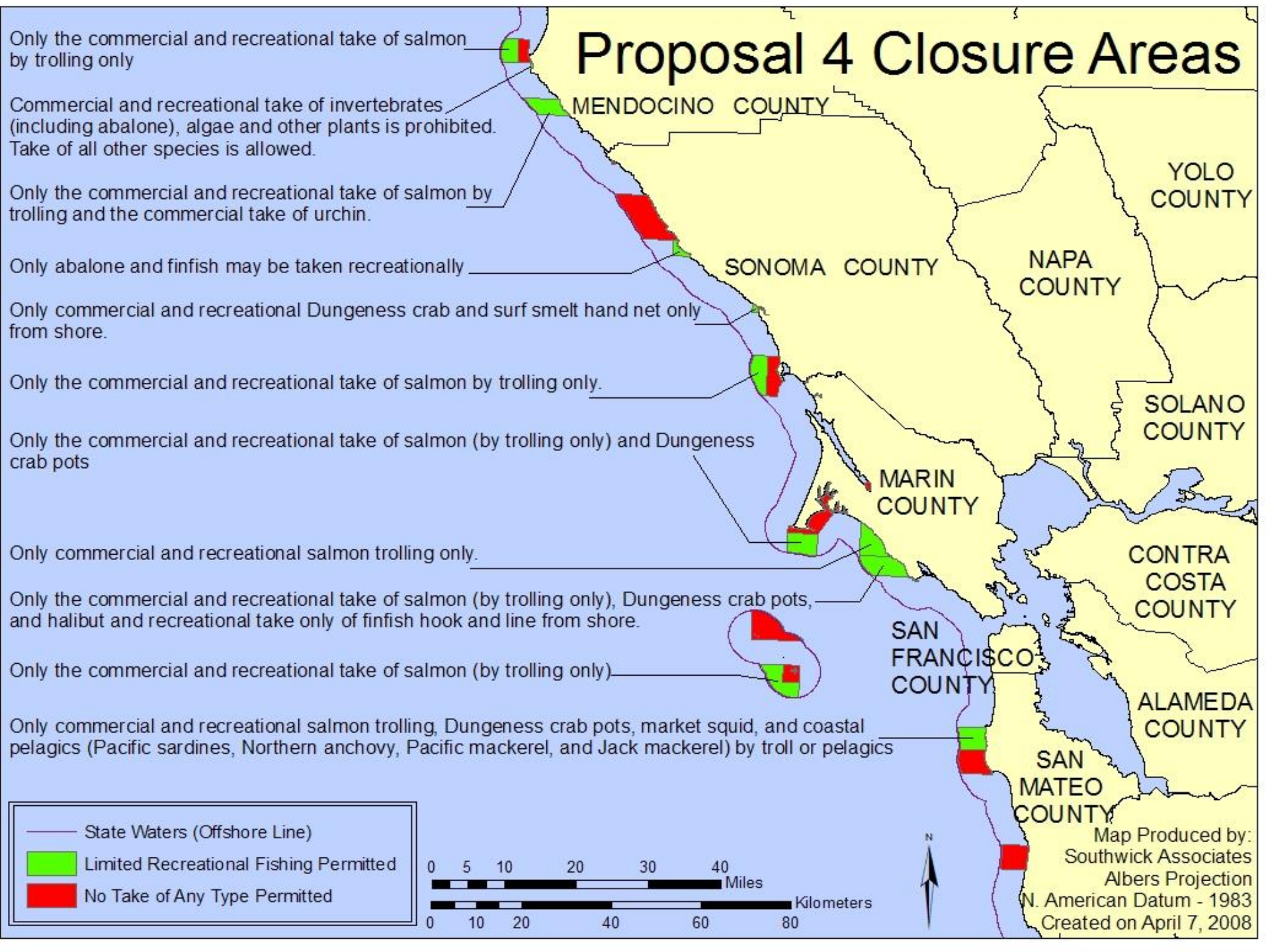
[2] Gentner Consulting Group. June 2013. "Comparison of different red snapper allocation levels across recreational and commercial sectors"

Recent Issues: Marine closures in California; Biscayne National Park

Key Information Gaps:

- No knowledge of where they fish spatially (no reliable GIS data)
  - This makes it difficult to measure the potential economic effects of selected area closures.

Proposal 4 Closure Areas



Conclusion

- Important questions remain unanswered
- Can we find solutions and answers?